

Message Text

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ACTION NEA-10

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AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS
AMEMBASSY MOSCOW
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C O N F I D E N T I A L CAIRO 14512

E.O.11652: GDS
TAGS: EG, US, UR
SUBJECT: SOVIET DCM ON RESOLUTION 242 AND PLO

REF: CAIRO 14377

SUMMARY: SPEAKING TO DCM, SOVIET COUNSELOR FUZZED
USSR POSITION ON PALESTINIAN ACCEPTANCE 242. ADVOCATED
US/USSR AGREEMENT ON PLO REPRESENTATION AT GENEVA.
CALLED FOR ISRAEL AND PLO TO SIMULTANEOUSLY RECOGNIZE EACH
OTHER. END SUMMARY.

1. AS FOLLOW UP TO HIS FAREWELL CALL ON AMBASSADOR
(REFTEL) SOVIET EMBASSY COUNSELOR PAGOS AKOPOV MET WITH
DCM AUGUST 31. AKOPOV TOOK BASICALLY SAME LINE IN LATTER
CONVERSATION BUT WAS LESS CLEAR ON SOVIET ADVOCACY THAT
PLO ACCEPT RESOLUTION 242.

2. AKOPOV SAID PALESTINIANS HAVE ASKED HIM WHETHER, IN
RETURN FOR RECOGNITION THIS RESOLUTION, THEY WILL RECEIVE
SOVEIT/US GUARANTEE OF THEIR NATIONAL RIGHTS. BY THIS,
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HE CONTINUED, PALESTINIANS MEAN ESTABLISHMENT OF AN
INDEPENDENT STATE.

3. CAREFULLY SPECIFYING THAT HE SPEAKING PERSONALLY,
AKOPOV SAID THERE MUST BE SIMULTANEOUS RECOGNITION BY
PLO AND ISRAELIS OF EACH OTHER'S RIGHTS. AKOPOV ADMITTED
ISRAELIS NOT PREPARED TAKE THIS STEP AT PRESENT BUT MAIN-

TAINED THERE NO OTHER WAY REACH OVERALL MIDDLE EAST SETTLEMENT. HE CONCLUDED THAT IF ISRAEL REFUSES RECOGNIZE PALESTINIAN RIGHTS PALESTINIANS WILL NOT ADVANCE BEYOND PRESENT POSITION. AKOPOV INSISTED THAT ONLY PALESTINIANS CAN REPRESENT THEMSELVES AT RESUMED GENEVA CONFERENCE AND SAID ME PROBLEM CAN NOT BE SOLVED WITHOUT SUCH REPRESENTATION. PLO HAD EXPLICITLY STATED THIS IN REPLY TO ASAD PROPOSAL THAT ARAB LEAGUE REPRESENT PALESTINIAN INTERESTS AT GENEVA.

4. ON POSSIBLE PALESTINIAN GOVERNMENT-IN-EXILE, AKOPOV THOUGHT THIS COULD BE USEFUL BUT ONLY ON THRESHOLD ESTABLISHMENT PALESTINIAN STATE. PALESTINIANS THEMSELVES, HE CONTINUED, MAINTAIN THAT CONDITION AT PRESENT DO NOT PERMIT ADDRESSING THIS QUESTION. QUESTION OF WHEN IT CAN BE ADDRESSED WILL DEPEND ON PROGRESS TOWARD ESTABLISHMENT OF STATE.

5. RETURNING TO RESOLUTION 242, AKOPOV SAID SOVIET POSITION CLEAR: PALESTINIAN RIGHTS, INCLUDING RIGHT ESTABLISH INDEPENDENT STATE, MUST BE RECOGNIZED. ADDITIONALLY, PLO SHOULD BE REPRESENTED AT GENEVA. IF THESE POINTS ACCEPTED BY ALL SIDES, THEN PALESTINIANS SHOULD RECOGNIZE RESOLUTIONS 338 AND 242. AKOPOV SAID US/USSR AGREEMENT ON PALESTINIAN REPRESENTATION WOULD PERMIT BOTH STATES TO WORK ON GETTING PALESTINIAN RECOGNITION 242. AKOPOV SAID HE DID NOT KNOW WHETHER
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AGREEMENT ON THIS SUBJECT HAD BEEN REACHED BY MOSCOW AND WASHINGTON.

6. AKOPOV ASKED WHETHER U.S. FEELS PALESTINIAN REPRESENTATION ISSUE MUST BE SOLVED BEFORE GENEVA, OR WHETHER THIS QUESTION COULD BE ADDRESSED AT CONFERENCE.

7. DCM REFERRED AKOPOV TO U.S. PUBLIC STATEMENT WHICH CLEARLY SPELL OUT THAT USG IS WILLING TO INITIATE DIALOGUE WITH PLO FOLLOWING ITS ACCEPTANCE OF 242 AND RECOGNITION OF ISRAEL'S RIGHT TO EXIST BUT SAID WE UNABLE GUARANTEE PALESTINIAN REPRESENTATION AT GENEVA. ANY ADDITIONS TO CONFERENCE MUST BE APPROVED BY ALL PARTIES WHICH ATTENDED INITIAL SESSION INCLUDING ISRAEL.

8. AKOPOV CAME BACK TO THIS QUESTION THREE TIMES DURING COURSE OF HOUR-LONG CONVERSATION. EACH TIME HE REITERATED HIS "PERSONAL" CONTENTION THAT SOLE ANSWER TO QUESTION IS SIMULTANEOUS RECOGNITION BY PLO AND ISRAEL OF EACH OTHERS RIGHTS. HE CONCLUDED CONVERSATION WITH OBSERVATION THAT IT WOULD BE USELESS TO GET PLO RECOGNITION OF

RESOLUTIONS IF PALESTINIANS COULD NOT AS RESULT PARTICIPATE
IN CONFERENCE. HE REPEATED THAT IT WOULD BE EASIER
CONVINCE PALESTINIANS TO GO ALONG ON ISRAELI RIGHTS IF US
AND USSR COULD REACH AGREEMENT ON SUPPORTING PLO RE-
PRESENTATION AT GENEVA.

9. DCM, STRESSING HE ALSO SPEAKING PERSONALLY, OBSERVED
THAT REACHING SUCH AN AGREEMENT COULD PROVE DIFFICULT.
SAID PALESTINIANS SHOULD LOOK CLOSELY AT PRESIDENT CARTER'S
STATEMENTS ON PALESTINIAN HOMELAND AND OUR COMMITMENT TO A
JUST PEACE, AND RECOGNIZE ADVANTAGES TO THE OF INITIATING
DIALOGUE WITH U.S.
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